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The Masterpiece

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The Masterpiece

Barbara Armbruster

The doughy white flesh
of her shoulders
spills over her blouse
like rising bread.
Blocking the aisle
with her cart
she muses aloud
on the high price
of organic tomatoes
as a women in some other
time and place
might haggle
over the gleaming freshness
of the fish,
the thumped ripeness
of a melon.
She needed only
the painter who would
pose her
with a starched white cap
sniffing a sprig of basil
perhaps a little dog
guarding the basket
at her feet.